HIV/AIDS funding shifts gears

BY HEATHER TRAVIS

Chil Yong Kang recently received news the Canadian government is reinstating funding for HIV/AIDS research, but with a different mandate, namely money for a vaccine manufacturing facility is no longer on the table.

The University of Western Ontario HIV/AIDS researcher sits on the cusp of a breakthrough – creating a vaccine to prevent HIV/AIDS infection. While Canada stands to gain notoriety for making medical history, Kang is forced to look south of the border to get the vaccine to market.

Canadian HIV/AIDS researchers suffered a setback earlier this year when it was announced that Western – along with three other finalists in the running – lost the bid to build Canada’s first HIV vaccine manufacturing facility.

Initially, the federal government had partnered with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in 2007 to support the Canadian HIV Vaccine Initiative including a winner-take-all $88 million to fund a Pilot Scale HIV Vaccine Manufacturing Facility. However, with seemingly little explanation, the federal government informed each finalist they had not been selected.

Little has been said from both camps as to why none of organizations are moving forward with the initiative and what has happened to the planned vaccine manufacturing facility.

“We were so excited about that announcement the government made in 2007 and I thought that this kind of facility can put Canada right in the front for the development of this kind of vaccine and manufacturing this vaccine for human clinical trials,” Kang says.

“They cancelled the program and I’m sure there were a lot of complaints.”

However, Kang was one of 40 people from around the country recently invited to Ottawa to discuss the terms of the renewed HIV/AIDS vaccine research initiative and to provide input on how the funding should be spent.

At the International AIDS Conference in Vienna, Austria in July, the Canadian government and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation renewed their commitment of up to $139 million to implement the Canadian HIV Vaccine Initiative through 2017.

Under the renewed program, $102 million is up for grabs to support HIV vaccine research and development, meaning it will be divided up for more than just vaccine development and clinical trials, but also infrastructure support. Kang and his Western team will have to resubmit a proposal for a slice of the funding, which he describes as “a drop in the bucket.”

Continued on page 7
Dramatic new season!
The UWOSO begins a new era with conductor Geoffrey Moull. Featuring Brahms’ Symphony No. 4 and Saint-Saëns’ Piano Concerto No. 2 with soloist Timothy Cheung
Sunday, October 17 3 p.m. Alumni Hall, Western

Tickets $15/$10 Available in advance at Orchestra London 519-679-4775 or cash at the door. www.music.uwo.ca

The Distinguished University Professorship Award Call for Nominations
The Distinguished University Professorship program is Western's highest recognition of those who have built a record of excellence in all three of teaching, research and service over a substantial career at Western.

Recipients of the Professorships will receive the honorary title of Distinguished University Professor, an award of $10,000 to support scholarly activities and a citation to be presented at an appropriate occasion. Recipients will also be expected to deliver a public lecture. The number of Professorships is limited. Full details can be found at:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/senate/dist_univ_prof.pdf

Selection from among nominees will be made by a Senate elected committee. Nominations should include a letter describing the nominee's qualifications for the award, a curriculum vitae prepared by the nominee for this purpose, and at least three confidential letters of reference. The letters of reference, at least one of which must address teaching and at least one of which must address research, should be from arm's length individuals who are recognized authorities in the nominee's fields of scholarship, and who can speak to the nominee's achievement in teaching, research or service. Nominations (original plus seven copies and an electronic copy) should be sent to:

The Office of the Vice-Provost (Academic Policy Planning & Faculty) Room 3170, Stevenson Hall The University of Western Ontario

The deadline for receipt of nominations is January 31, 2011

Moving beyond the lab

Researchers at The University of Western Ontario, through its business development arm at WORLDiscoveries, will help shorten the bridge between local innovation and global industry thanks to $750,000 from the federal government’s Applied Research and Commercialization Initiative.

Part of a larger $15 million initiative, Western’s funding allows the university to partner with small-and medium-sized businesses in southern Ontario on activities such as applied research, engineering design, technology development, product testing and certification, and bring these promising new products to the marketplace faster.

The funding announcement was made Tuesday at Western by Elgin-Middlesex-London MP Joe Preston.

“Funding programs like this play a critical role in helping researchers take the next step in commercializing their discoveries,” says Dan Saini, Western’s acting associate vice-president (Research). “The importance of our research is to take it out of the lab, in terms of knowledge mobilization and technology transfer, and have an impact on our society.”

One bio-medical researcher who will definitely benefit from this latest funding is Arthur Brown. The Robarts Research Institute scientist, who runs a molecular biology spinal cord research lab, began a line of questioning and was interested in something rather basic: How are genes controlled in the injured spinal cord?

“The reason for this was because we knew in the injured spinal cord, after the injury, a whole set of genes become expressed (activated), that actually inhibit regeneration that can be the opposite of what we would want,” he says.

By trying to figure out how these genes are controlled, Brown identified a particular protein that turns the genes on after injury. Not only that, but the same protein turns down the expression of genes that would increase regeneration.

“The opportunity there was obvious,” he says. “If you could inhibit this particular protein you should therefore be able to decrease, after injury, the expression of the bad genes and increase the expression of the pro-generative genes.”

“This funding will provide the support to traverse a very important gap. Because once you have the identification of a target, there are still so many steps that have to be traversed to get to market. And not just market, but more importantly to clinic. For a bio-medical researcher, this sort of funding is going to help us traverse that gap.” WORLDiscoveries, who will manage the new funding, draws upon a mix of industry connections, sector-specific market knowledge and business development expertise to help researchers and local inventors commercialize their discoveries through licensing and new company spin-offs.

WORLDiscoveries Executive Director Paul Paolatto says while Western ranks in the top ten in new research funding, it ranks third in terms of commercializing those research opportunities.

“We are fortunate in London to have such an extraordinary mix of knowledge assets,” he says. “We will deliver on our promise. We do believe this funding will go a long way and we are very excited to be playing a role in making that happen.”

Western, as one of the top research intensive universities in Canada, understands the potential that exists in research and the powerful difference it can make in the lives of people everywhere by bringing these results to the marketplace,” Preston adds. “I look forward to seeing the results of your work with business and helping them bring new ideas to consumers.”

IVY Student Earns Scholarship
Ivey MBA student Allan Alfonso has been awarded a $7,500 scholarship to continue his education at the university, thanks to Engineers Canada and TD Insurance Meloche Monnex. A West ern engineer ing graduate, Alfonso was selected as a student pushing the boundaries of the profession with innovative ideas. Ultimately, Alfonso would like to work for a large global technology company or consulting firm, and become what he calls a “thought leader” – someone who leverages education and experience to become recognized for innovative technology ideas and business models.

Computer Preferred Vendor Announced
A campus project team has established preferred vendor relationships with three vendors of standard and power desktop/ note book computers. The ven dors are (along with a link to a promotional flyer):

- Dell Canada. www.ca/finance/purchase/comppromo/Dell.pdf

Departments may order computer desktops or notebooks (to a maximum value of $5,000 per order) from these vendors using a Western speedcode.

CAMPUS DIGEST

Questions can be directed to Peter Jeffs, Purchasing Department procurement manager, business products, at purpg@ uwo.ca or Ext. 84584.

Alumna Named Among Top Docs
Dr. Catherine Faulds has been named one of Canada’s 2010 Family Physicians of the Year according to the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CPC).

Completing her medical education at The University of Western Ontario in 1986, Faulds became a Certificant of the College in 1989 and a Fellow in 2004. In addition to managing a busy London-based family practice, she is one of 50 Canadian doctors who are U.S. Board Certified in palliative care and hospice medicine. She lends this expertise in her role as team leader of the Palliative Care Unit at Parkwood Hospital.
Moull takes up Western baton

By Jason Winders

Geoffrey Moull couldn’t resist. Trained on piano from an early age, the London-born conductor quickly realized a keyboard virtuosity at an early age, the London-born conductor quickly realized a keyboard performance could never offer the same satisfaction as leading his own orchestra.

And soon, University of Western Ontario audiences can share in his own orchestra. The same satisfaction as leading his own orchestra.

He replaces Jim McKay, who retired after three decades with the baton. McKay also served as chair of the Department of Music Performance Studies.

Entrusted with masterpieces, works which “composers poured their heart and soul into,” Moull marvels at the task. “It’s a journey into the composers mind,” he says. “What did they want to say? What did they want us to do?”

“The challenge and intricacy of the repertoire at hand is simply amazing.”

His inaugural concert features the works of Mozart, Brahms and the Saint-Saëns Piano Concerto with Timothy Cheung at the keyboard. Moull selected the repertoire with the student players in mind.

“I’ve chosen repertoire that has not been played for a long time and the audience will not have heard recently. My goal as an orchestra conductor is to help the students develop more ensemble skills – listening within sections and section-to-section. I want them to play as a group, not 76 individuals.”

Benjamin Zander, famed conductor of the Boston Philharmonic, has a rather powerful take on the professor. He points out that, as a conductor, he is the only member of an orchestra who doesn’t make a sound. He depends for his power on his ability to make other people powerful.

Moull embraces that challenge. “I am not blowing into an instrument or drawing a bow,” he says. “I’m using the baton as a different method of conveyance and I am dealing with people. I am part musician, part psychologist.”

From 2000-2009, Moull served as Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra musical director. Under his leadership, they became one of Canada’s leading professional regional orchestras and a staple of CBC Radio nationally. Their recording Variations on a Memory was nominated for a Juno Award. Prior to that, Moull conducted orchestras and opera to great success in Germany for many years.

Beyond classical, Moull appreciates rock groups who use “genuine musicians.” Names like Chicago, Blood, Sweat and Tears and Elton John top his list. But he saves his highest praise for Queen, a group whose works he has performed in concert with a full symphony.

He describes music on a page as an “imperfect roadmap” a conductor must follow. Given that description, no two performances will ever be the same for musician and audience alike. “There are no perfect performances,” Moull says. “A good musician is never 100 per cent satisfied especially when it comes from performance, especially a live performance.”

Moull explains modern recording technology can be contrived, even deceptive as the Digital Age offers an almost irresistible “artificial perfection.” It doesn’t make it any less an art form, simply a different beast.

Performed live, the music communicates something different to the audience each time and moves them in some new way. He stresses how each individual musician and, in turn, each individual audience member experiences the same music differently performance to performance.

And he should know.

Moull’s career includes performances with such renowned ensembles as the Southwest German Radio Orchestra, the State Opera Hannover, the Comic Opera Berlin, the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, the German Rhine Opera, the Metz Opera, the CBC Vancouver Radio Orchestra, the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra.

Throughout his professional career, Moull has been a dedicated teacher. He was the University of Minster Symphony Orchestra music director, Opera Program of Wilfrid Laurier University mentor, McGill University Symphony Orchestra guest conductor and gave master classes at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. In 2010, he was appointed visiting professor at the Hochschule für Musik Detmold in Germany.

He continues that tradition at Western by teaching graduate instrumental conducting.

“Student musicians may not be as technically perfect as professional musicians,” Moull says. “But students bring an enthusiasm for the music with them. And that makes for a wonderful experience.”

The University of Western Ontario Symphony Orchestra begins its 2010-11 season with new conductor Geoffrey Moull. Tickets are $15+$10 students and seniors. They can be ordered in advance through Orchestra London at 519-679-8778 or cash at the door.

Distracted driving remains no LOL matter

By Paul Mayne

So you think you can catch a break if you text and drive while on campus? Think again.

While already handing out numerous tickets under the Distracted Driving Law since it came into effect in October 2009 (which included a three-month education period), Campus Community Police Service Director Elgin Austen says his officers are covering the campus as part of a week-long blitz of tenacious texters and erroneous e-mailers.

People coming through our campus may think they’ll catch a break with this law – and they are mistaken, says Austen, noting studies show a driver using a cell phone is four times more likely to be in a crash than a driver focused on the road.

“With drivers hiding their texting now, it becomes even more of a distraction for them. And with thousands of students, staff and faculty crossing our roads every day our goal is to make this a safe campus for all.”

Three large signs will be placed throughout the campus to serve as a reminder – and warning – to motorists on campus that officers will be vigorously enforcing the law.

Austen suggests avoiding the temptation of texting, checking your e-mail or making a phone call by simply turning off your phone until you arrive at your destination.

“If you really need to make that call or text someone, pull over to a safe location and do so,” he says. “Just don’t think you can text while driving. It’s against the law.”

While the law prohibits talking, texting, dialing or e-mailing using a cell phone or other handheld device, or using entertainment devices such as DVD players, hands-free use of these devices is still permitted.

Police, paramedics and firefight- ers, as well as some commercial drivers and public service workers, may continue to use certain hand-held devices when performing their duties. All drivers may use hand-held devices to call 911.

The law also gives judges the discretion to change the $155 penalty to a range of from $50 to $500 if the apprehended driver contests the charge in court.

Campus Community Police Service Special Constable Leta Guest reminds motorists that texting and driving on campus will mean a hefty fine under the province’s Distracted Driving Law.
CALL FOR SANITY TO PREVAIL

A week ago today, it was announced by James Compton that “unionized faculty members at The University of Western Ontario have voted overwhelmingly in support of strike action to back their bargaining goals,” after 87 percent of the 57 percent of faculty members who took the time to vote said “Yes.” This may fit The University of Western Ontario Faculty Association (UWOFA) leadership’s canon as they seek a new mandate of the administration’s contract proposals range from silly to unwise. Why the gap?

It would be foolish for me to think I can discern all the reasons why a majority of my fellow bargain unit members declined giving UWOFA the “Yes” vote it sought, but I can give my two reasons, which I suspect were shared by many others.

The first is that I view the professorship as a vocation, and not merely a career or job. For me to deny teaching to students for industrial action would be no different than for a doctor to deny treatment to an ill person (though the consequences are less severe). I do not believe we have the right to impede our studies. Secondly, in fact a higher percentage of bargaining unit members who actually cast ballots in favour of strike action, despite a daily parade of e-mails from Compton, an entire issue of Faculty Times (save the well-deserved tribute to Paul Handford) endorsing a “Yes” vote, and contract negotiation bulletins echoing the same theme.

Firstly, 87 percent of 57 percent of the membership represents less than 50 percent of bargaining unit members who actually cast ballots in favour of strike action, despite a daily parade of e-mails from Compton, an entire issue of Faculty Times (save the well-deserved tribute to Paul Handford) endorsing a “Yes” vote, and contract negotiation bulletins echoing the same theme.

Secondly, in fact a higher percentage of the administration’s contract proposals range from silly to unwise. Why the gap?

It would be foolish for me to think I can discern all the reasons why a majority of my fellow bargain unit members declined giving UWOFA the “Yes” vote it sought, but I can give my two reasons, which I suspect were shared by many others.

The first is that I view the professorship as a vocation, and not merely a career or job. For me to deny teaching to students for industrial action would be no different than for a doctor to deny treatment to an ill person (though the consequences are less severe). I do not believe we have the right to impede our studies. Secondly, in fact a higher percentage of bargaining unit members who actually cast ballots in favour of strike action, despite a daily parade of e-mails from Compton, an entire issue of Faculty Times (save the well-deserved tribute to Paul Handford) endorsing a “Yes” vote, and contract negotiation bulletins echoing the same theme.

Firstly, 87 percent of 57 percent of the membership represents less than 50 percent of bargaining unit members who actually cast ballots in favour of strike action, despite a daily parade of e-mails from Compton, an entire issue of Faculty Times (save the well-deserved tribute to Paul Handford) endorsing a “Yes” vote, and contract negotiation bulletins echoing the same theme.

Secondly, in fact a higher percentage of the administration’s contract proposals range from silly to unwise. Why the gap?

It would be foolish for me to think I can discern all the reasons why a majority of my fellow bargain unit members declined giving UWOFA the “Yes” vote it sought, but I can give my two reasons, which I suspect were shared by many others.

The first is that I view the professorship as a vocation, and not merely a career or job. For me to deny teaching to students for industrial action would be no different than for a doctor to deny treatment to an ill person (though the consequences are less severe). I do not believe we have the right to impede our studies. Secondly, in fact a higher percentage of bargaining unit members who actually cast ballots in favour of strike action, despite a daily parade of e-mails from Compton, an entire issue of Faculty Times (save the well-deserved tribute to Paul Handford) endorsing a “Yes” vote, and contract negotiation bulletins echoing the same theme.

Firstly, 87 percent of 57 percent of the membership represents less than 50 percent of bargaining unit members who actually cast ballots in favour of strike action, despite a daily parade of e-mails from Compton, an entire issue of Faculty Times (save the well-deserved tribute to Paul Handford) endorsing a “Yes” vote, and contract negotiation bulletins echoing the same theme.

Secondly, in fact a higher percentage of the administration’s contract proposals range from silly to unwise. Why the gap?

It would be foolish for me to think I can discern all the reasons why a majority of my fellow bargain unit members declined giving UWOFA the “Yes” vote it sought, but I can give my two reasons, which I suspect were shared by many others.

The first is that I view the professorship as a vocation, and not merely a career or job. For me to deny teaching to students for industrial action would be no different than for a doctor to deny treatment to an ill person (though the consequences are less severe). I do not believe we have the right to impede our studies. Secondly, in fact a higher percentage of bargaining unit members who actually cast ballots in favour of strike action, despite a daily parade of e-mails from Compton, an entire issue of Faculty Times (save the well-deserved tribute to Paul Handford) endorsing a “Yes” vote, and contract negotiation bulletins echoing the same theme.

Firstly, 87 percent of 57 percent of the membership represents less than 50 percent of bargaining unit members who actually cast ballots in favour of strike action, despite a daily parade of e-mails from Compton, an entire issue of Faculty Times (save the well-deserved tribute to Paul Handford) endorsing a “Yes” vote, and contract negotiation bulletins echoing the same theme.

Secondly, in fact a higher percentage of the administration’s contract proposals range from silly to unwise. Why the gap?

It would be foolish for me to think I can discern all the reasons why a majority of my fellow bargain unit members declined giving UWOFA the “Yes” vote it sought, but I can give my two reasons, which I suspect were shared by many others.
Stand up, speak out for youth

By Judy Shepard
Matthew Shepard Foundation

Editor’s note: On Oct. 8, 1998, Judy and Dennis Shepard were awakened in the middle of the night by a telephone call no parent should ever have to receive. Their eldest son, Matthew, was in coma after having been brutally attacked — because he was gay. On Oct. 12, 1998, Matthew passed away. Judy Shepard is determined to use her grief over her son’s death to make a difference — to do what she can to ensure that no other parent will have to endure what she has. She is now speaking to audiences nationwide about what they can do to make their schools and communities safer for everyone, regardless of their race, sex, religion or sexual orientation. Judy Shepard will speak at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 19 in the Health Science Building, Room 40. Tickets are available at judyatwestern.ca.

What follows is an essay from Judy Shepard from The Matthew Shepard Foundation website, matthewshepard.org. She serves as the foundation’s board of directors president.

Our family, and the staff and board of the Matthew Shepard Foundation, are all deeply saddened by the devastating reports of at least seven gay or gay-perceived teens to commit suicide in the United States in the last month.

Reports say Tyler Clementi, 18, leapt to his death from the George Washington Bridge near his New Jersey college campus after a roommate allegedly broadcast him in a same-sex encounter behind closed doors in his dorm room, and apparently invited others, via Twitter, to view it online. Regardless of his roommate’s alleged tweet, Tyler had apparently made no statement about his own sexual orientation. I’m sure we will all learn more about this terrible tragedy as legal proceedings unfold, but the contempt and disregard behind such an invasion of privacy seems clear. In the meantime, we send our thoughts and prayers to Tyler’s family as they mourn their loss.

In the last month there has been a shocking series of teen suicides linked to bullying, taunting and general disrespect regarding sexual orientation, in every corner of America. In September, Seth Walsh, a 13-year-old in Tehachapi, Calif., passed away after 10 days on life support after he hanged himself. Police say he had been mercilessly taunted by fellow students over his perceived sexual orientation.

Billy Lucas, 15, hanged himself a few weeks ago at his Indiana home after years of reported harassment by students who judged him to be gay. Asher Brown, a 13-year-old in Harris, Texas, who had recently come out, took his life with a gun after, his parents say, their efforts to alert school officials to ongoing bullying were not acted upon.

Many Americans also learned a few weeks ago about Tyler Wilson, an 11-year-old boy in Ohio who decided to join a cheerleading squad that had been all-female. As a gymnast, he was interested in the athletic elements of cheerleading. He was taunted with homophobic remarks and had his arm broken by two schoolmates who apparently assumed him to be gay. He told Good Morning America that since returning to school, he’s been threatened with having his other arm broken, too.

Our young people deserve better than to go to schools where they are treated this way. We have to make schools a safe place for our youth to prepare for their futures, not be confronted with threats, intimidation or routine disrespect.

Quite simply, we are calling one more time for everyone to stand up and speak out against taunting, invasion of privacy, violence and discrimination against these youth by their peers, and asking everyone in a position of authority in their schools and communities to step forward and provide safe spaces and support services for LGBT youth or those who are simply targeted for discrimination because others assume they are gay. There can never be enough love and acceptance for these young people as they seek to live openly as their true selves and find their role in society.

Suicide is a complicated problem and it is too easy to casually blame it on a single factor in a young person’s life, but it is clear that mistreatment by others has a tremendously negative effect on a young person’s sense of self worth and colours how he or she sees the world around them. Parents, educators and peers in the community need to be vigilant to the warning signs of suicide and other self-destructive behaviors in the young people in their lives, and help them find resources to be healthy and productive.

For information regarding support services for LGBT youth on campus, contact the Student Development Centre at S19-661-3031.

IN MEMORIAM

Jozef Gombc

Jozef Gombc died Saturday, Oct. 9 at Victoria Hospital. He worked as a service mechanic at the University of Western Ontario from September 1962 to May 1997.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Ivanka. He is survived by his daughter, Josie, a former administrative assistant, Dean’s Office, Faculty of Science, of London; son, Brian of Cobourg; granddaughter, Sandie Zerdin; and great-grandson, Joey Zerdin of Vancouver.

Visitation was held 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 12 at Westview Funeral Chapel, 709 Wonderland Road North, where the funeral service was conducted 1 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 13. Interment followed at Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

Photo by Gina van Hooff/Courtesy Matthew Shepard Foundation

Context key to numbers

I’ve always been interested in what Arthur Conan Doyle described as “the dog not barking,” that element of a story where conspicuous silence plays a key role. Perhaps outside of Sherlock Homes mystery serials, and their later movie adaptations, you’ll find this device playing out in politics more than any other arena.

Campaign donations. Television ads. Delegate swapping. All these support their reputation of “dogs not barking” are intriguing. If you dig deep enough into what isn’t being discussed, you find far more interesting stories. They take time to develop because even those who involve context and perspective. But it’s usually worth the wait.

For myself, I have always been interested in voter turnout, not what drew voters to the polls or made them cast a ballot one way or another, but what kept non-voters home. To me, that’s the dog not barking in election stories.

Race. Age. Apathy. Even the weather. I have seen voter no-shows pinned to about everything.

So know I watched with interest the two strike votes held in recent days.

As announced, final totals showed 87 per cent of The University of Western Ontario Faculty Association (UWOFA) and 85 per cent of The University of Western Ontario Staff Association (UWOSA) voting members favoured authorizing their unions to call a strike. While neither results are predictive of a strike, and are a standard part of most negotiation processes, I found the numbers behind those numbers interesting. In the end, 57 per cent of eligible faculty and 72 percent of eligible staff cast ballots in their respective elections.

I don’t claim any insight into the meaning of those numbers yet, as they are better viewed in full context of how negotiations eventually play out. But that hasn’t stopped the media and general folks from dropping a line offering their readings with conclusions ranging from sane to nonsensical to semantics.

And 57% — however, agree on one thing: The Press has it wrong because the wrong numbers are getting play. (Funny how that holds true in every labour negotiation I have heard of. But, the Press, it’s nice to see both sides find common ground.)

What one person sees as a mandate, another sees as manipulated. What some call “overstated,” others call “overwhelming.” That’s fine, as the numbers can be bent to serve any master this early on. But we need to realize it’s all spin from all sides right now.

And nobody can speak to what these numbers mean until all is settled.

Indeed, I have found turnout taps into mood, but in the short run both sides need to understand the results of elections are the results of elections. Reported numbers represent the feelings of those who actually voted, since we cannot see into the hearts and minds of no-shows. The voters who showed up have spoken and that’s the reality all parties take to the table.


The world is not governed by good intentions or valid excuses. You either cast a ballot or you don’t. As Woody Allen liked to say, “90 per cent of life is just showing up.”

All these numbers are going to add a lot to this whole story some day. We know a dog isn’t barking right now. We simply need context and perspective before we can say why.

Jason Winders, editorial services associate director, serves as editor of the Western News. Contact him at jwinder2@uwo.ca.
Tap new app

By Jason Winders

The University of Western Ontario. There’s now an app for that. Officially launched last week, the Western app for iPhone/iPads is available for free at the iTunes Store or by clicking through to Western’s mobile launch site.

Co-developed by Information Technology Services (ITS) and Western’s Communication and Public Affairs Department, the app provides a way for people to stay up to date on all things Western through the Western News, the student-run Gazette, Mustang sports and media relations news releases. It also features a calendar of events, as well as a directory search for all faculty, students and staff.

“We set out to create something that would be really handy for people in their day-to-day lives on campus,” says Terry Rice, Communications and Public Affairs, marketing and creative services director. “Early feedback suggests we’ve hit the mark.”

This is Version 1.0 of what developers consider an ongoing project. They have plans for a long list of features to implement over the next year including incorporating faculties and campus groups into the app. Future plans also call for adding more functionality on top of the news and information currently available.

No standalone Blackberry version of the app exists yet. Users of that device can bookmark a Web-based version of the app at Western’s mobile launch site. Western wants to hear from you. Feedback, feature requests and bug reports can be contributed by going to Western’s mobile launch site and going under Feedback and Support.

“Projects like this can only succeed with good collaboration. The teamwork between ITS developers and communications was critical to making this work,” Rice says. “And now we’re counting on everyone to pitch in.”

Visit Western’s mobile launch site at uwo.ca/its/mobile-doc/ or by clicking on the QR code.
Vaccine awaiting FDA approval

Continued from page 1

“We have to have some niche, some unique program that Canada can offer. If they support only basic research and there are so many researchers ... the money that can be allocated for certain projects will be so limited,” he says.

When it comes to the HIV/AIDS vaccine, Kang is in the midst of a waiting game.

Kang, along with a team at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, is awaiting news the vaccine – dubbed SAV001-H – has past its first hurdle, getting approval for human trials by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Since the AIDS virus was recognized in 1983, there have been numerous trials through pharmaceutical companies to develop vaccines; however, no commercialized vaccine has been developed to date.

“We have done what we can do in the laboratory and we have transferred the technology to the company that is sponsoring us (Sumagen Canada Inc.),” says Kang.

The company has submitted an investigational New Drug application to the FDA, a prerequisite for approval of human clinical trials. The FDA has since requested additional tests be conducted to ensure the vaccine is safe.

The vaccine uses whole, killed HIV-1 virus, likened to how the polio virus vaccine was developed. The HIV-1 is genetically engineered so that it is non-pathogenic and can be safely injected, and can be produced in large quantities. The idea is the vaccine would prime T-cells to destroy cells harboring HIV, essentially curing a patient of the virus.

“We have developed the technology to test the safety of this vaccine to show there is no residual infectious particles in the vaccine,” says Kang.

Also, the company must show the vaccine is free of other contaminating material, such as human DNA. To answer these questions, Kang’s team has established the technology to prove the vaccine is safe.

In the meantime, two good laboratory practice facilities in the United States (a company and a university) are manufacturing the human clinical trial vaccines. Once it is produced, about 270 tests must be completed to prove the vaccine is properly manufactured and safe for human clinical trials.

The information will be submitted to the FDA to get the green light for human clinical trials.

“We are at that stage, a rather critical stage,” Kang says. “I think we will submit the data by the end of this year. Hopefully we can get approval for human trials early next year.”

“It’s moving along, but not as quick as we wish.”

Also, the company must show the vaccine is non-pathogenic and can be safely injected, and can be produced in large quantities. The idea is the vaccine would prime T-cells to destroy cells harboring HIV, essentially curing a patient of the virus.

The FDA has since requested additional tests be conducted to ensure the vaccine is safe.

If FDA approval is granted, it is expected Canada and other countries, including Canada. If FDA approval is granted, it is expected Canada and other countries will allow for human clinical trials of the vaccine.

The information will be submitted to the FDA to get the green light for human clinical trials.

“We are at that stage, a rather critical stage,” Kang says. “I think we will submit the data by the end of this year. Hopefully we can get approval for human trials early next year.”

“It’s moving along, but not as quick as we wish.”
Osinski sees red with latest research

Free up your time and let us do your printing and copying! Quick and easy with excellent results!

www.graphicservices.uwo.ca

WESTERN’S DESIGN AND PRINT PROFESSIONALS

Joan Burrell, Office Supervisor
Kathy Russell, Administrative Staff
Karen Adam, Administrative Staff

Sales - Service - Installation
535 First Street, London
www.homecastle.ca
519 659-3550

Shiki
Japanese Restaurant
Discover A Taste of Japan
Authentic Japanese Cuisine
519-668-7407
715 Wellington Rd. S. (at back)

Now Open
7 Days/Week
Lunch: 11:30 - 2:30
Dinner:
Mon - Sat 4:30 - 10:30,
Sun 4:30 - 9:30

CRAZY JOE’S
SHISHA CAFÉ
405 Wharncliffe Rd S. (at Emery) T . 519-520-3468
Homecastle, serving London for the past 20 years.
Same company, same location.

Free Wireless Internet
Fully licensed under LCBO

Try our Authentic
Chicken Shawarma,
Falafel, Fatoush Salad
& more!

Two Government Rebate Programs Available
Gordon Osinski hopes to one day leave an impression on Mars—literally and figuratively. The Earth Sciences/Physics and Astronomy professor is part of a group of researchers working with British Columbia-based MacDonald Dettwiler and Associates Ltd. (MDA) to build a Mars rover prototype. MDA recently received a $6 million contract from the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) to design, build and test a Mars Exploration and Science Rover (MESR) for the Exploration Surface Mobility program. The investment is part of the Government of Canada’s 2009 Economic Action Plan in which $110 million in stimuli funds were allocated to the project.

Osinski will lead the Science Working Group (SWG) for this prototype. “We will define the science aspects and science user needs of the MESR design,” says Osinski, Western’s Centre for Planetary Science and Exploration deputy director. “In essence, the science will drive the development and specifications of the rover. This includes an assessment of the tools that the rover may carry and the operational scenarios that may be developed. The rover, once built, will also be deployed in a realistic ‘analogue’ environment, and we’ll be responsible for defining this field test and for supporting it in person.”

The rover, equipped with vision systems and detectors for navigation, will provide the interfaces for hosting a small robotic arm and upcoming sciences and payloads. It will be tested in the field in 2012. The SWG consists of several prominent researchers from Canadian universities such as Winnipeg, York, Brock, Memorial and McGill. “Now that we have the contract, I’ll be also recruiting other Western folks, too. Some of my graduate students and post-docs will definitely be involved,” says Osinski, adding this project builds upon several successful previous collaborations with MDA and the CSA. “It was only recently the Canadian flag was flown on the surface of Mars for the first time – during the 2008 NASA-led Phoenix mission, notes Osinski. And a Canadian instrument was fly on the next NASA rover mission – the Mars Science Laboratory, to be launched in 2013. “Our goal is that there will be a Canadian-built rover heading to Mars not long after that.”

But while the research focuses on potential space exploration missions, technologies developed through the project could be evaluated for ground-based applications such as mining, transportation, medicine and security industries. “There are many commonalities in the techniques and technologies being applied to the exploration of remote and/or extreme locations on Earth, such as polar regions and deep underground mines,” says Osinski. “Increasingly, these technological advances involve the use of robotics, teleoperation and autonomous operations, technologies used, and often developed, for planetary exploration.”
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

Western's Awards for Excellence in Teaching have recognized outstanding contributions by faculty to the academic development of students since 1980-81. Previous recipients of these awards are ineligible for re-nomination for the same award. Up to six awards may be made annually in the following three categories:

The Edward G. Plева Award for Excellence in Teaching was established to recognize continuing members of full-time faculty (appointed either as Limited Term or Tenured) at Western and at its Affiliated University Colleges. Clinical Academics appointed under Conditions of Appointment: Physicians Appointed in Clinical Departments and Clinical Divisions of Basic Science Departments are also eligible for nomination.

The Angela Armitt Award for Excellence in Teaching by Part-Time Faculty was established to recognize Part-Time members of faculty. To be eligible, the nominee must have held an academic appointment to teach at least one full degree-credit course (or equivalent) offered by Western or by an Affiliated University College during the fiscal year (May 1 through April 30) preceding nomination. The candidate must not have been a regular full-time faculty member, visiting faculty member, graduate teaching assistant or previous award recipient.

The Marilyn Robinson Award for Excellence in Teaching was established to recognize a continuing member of full-time faculty who is appointed either as Limited Term or Probationary at Western or at an Affiliated University College, and who usually has seven years or less of full-time university teaching experience at the time of his or her nomination.

Nomination dossiers (one original and one copy) must be submitted by December 15 to the Office of the Provost, University Secretariat (Room 4101, Stevenson Hall). The dossiers will be reviewed by the Senate Subcommittee on Teaching Awards (SUTA).

For more detailed information, please refer to the following website: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/senate/sutaregs.pdf

Proudly providing the best student experience among Canada’s leading research-intensive universities

To advertise in Western News, call 519 661-2045
COMING EVENTS

October 14
Writing Support Centre Workshop - Writing Essay Exams. WSS Room 304. Register at: sdc.uwo.ca/writing 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Department of Physics and Astronomy Colloquium - Doug McKay, University of Hong Kong. “Migration, obliquity, and the fall of reach: What planetary 1ks can tell us.” Chemistry Rm. 9:15 p.m.

Centre for Research on Migration and Ethnic Relations Colloquium Series - Liviana Tassotti, Department of Political Science, Brock University. “How Canadian Cities are Responding to International Migration” SSC 5220 4 p.m. (Rehearsals 3:30 p.m. SSC 5220)

Men’s Basketball - Memorial University at Western. 7 p.m.

October 15
Men’s / Women’s Tennis - OUA Championship at Western. 9 a.m.

Don Wright Faculty of Music - The Door. Dominick Argento’s DST chamber opera, from a play by Chekhov. Diva Lounge Products brings alumni Sonja Gustafson, James Menzies and Eric Neaves to the stage, with Tanya Ellis, piano. von Kuster Hall. 12:30 p.m.

Faculty Mentor Program – “Work/Life Balance: Strategies for Successful Juggling”, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m., Teaching Support Centre, Weldon Library, Room 122. Program details and registration available at uwo.ca/tsc

Department of Biology Seminar - Vince Tropepe, Department of Cell and Systems Biology, University of Toronto. “Development of a retinal pepe, Department of Cell and Systems Biology, Men’s Hockey

Women’s Hockey - UOT at Western. 2 p.m.

Don Wright Faculty of Music - The UWO Symphony begins a new era under conductor Geoffrey Moulson. Performing Brahms Fourth Symphony and Saint-Saëns Second Piano Concerto with Tim Cheung. Alumni Hall. 3 p.m. Tickets sold through Orchestra London at 519-679-8778. S15/10 seniors and students.

King’s University College - Eucharist Labatt Hall. 5 p.m.

October 18
Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering Graduate Student Seminars - Hemmes Amin. “Preoperative planning of robots-assisted minimally invasive cardiac surgery under geometric uncertainty” Spercer Engineering Building, Room 1059. 1:30 p.m.

Xiaohong Meng “Atomic Layer Deposition: A New Technique to Synthesize Nanoorganisms for Renewable Clean Energy Conversion and Storage” at 1:30 p.m.

Department of Physiology and Pharmacology - Dongbai Bai and Gerald Kidder, Physiology and Pharmacology. Western. “Lab Reports” DSF, Room 206. Everyone welcome. 4 p.m.

Huron University College - The Doubles and Margaret Derry Interdisciplinary Lectures. Michael Ruse, Florida State University. “Science and Religion: Why Can’t the Americans be like the Canadians?” The Debate is more than simply science. Kingmill Room. 5 p.m.

King’s University College - Prayer with the Songs of Taizé. Christ the King Chapel. 7 p.m.

October 19

Don Wright Faculty of Music - Nancy Batus gives a lecture and demonstration on the new Spirit series for Alfred publishers. Music Building, 10:40 - 11:30 a.m.

Writing Support Centre Workshop - Writing with Clarity. WSS Room 3014. Register at: sdc.uwo.ca/writing 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Western Libraries - Panel discussion on digital scholarship. Alan MacAulay. Chair; Deirdre Deasy, Director of History; Director of NICHE and Juan Luis Suárez, Dept. of Modern Languages & Literatures. Director of CulturalHeritage. Speakers will discuss how they use technologies to open up communication and facilitate collaborations among scholars in different disciplines. Visit: lib.uwo.ca/scholarship/opennaccessweekwestern.html. Labatt Health Sciences Bldg. Rm. H1 2 - 3:30 p.m.

Graduate Studies Preview Day

Interested in learning more about Graduate Studies at Guelph?

Meet with faculty, staff, and students to learn more about Guelph’s graduate programs, research opportunities, admissions process, scholarships and campus.

Saturday, October 23rd 10am-1pm
University Centre at the University of Guelph

Graduate students at Guelph are empowered to think critically, explore new ideas and apply what they have learned to improve life in Canada and around the world.

- Choose from over 90 graduate programs
- Work with faculty who have received over $100 million in external financial support
- Conduct research in world-class facilities
- Live in one of Canada’s best cities (Money Sense Magazine)
- Graduate studies can be fully financed by scholarships, awards and other funding
- Master’s or Doctoral graduates can earn up to 50% more income than graduates with a Bachelor’s degree

www.uoguelph.ca/graduatestudies

Meet with faculty, staff, and students to learn more about Guelph’s graduate programs, research opportunities, admissions process, scholarships and campus.

Saturday, October 23rd 10am-1pm
University Centre at the University of Guelph

Graduate students at Guelph are empowered to think critically, explore new ideas and apply what they have learned to improve life in Canada and around the world.

- Choose from over 90 graduate programs
- Work with faculty who have received over $100 million in external financial support
- Conduct research in world-class facilities
- Live in one of Canada’s best cities (Money Sense Magazine)
- Graduate studies can be fully financed by scholarships, awards and other funding
- Master’s or Doctoral graduates can earn up to 50% more income than graduates with a Bachelor’s degree

www.uoguelph.ca/graduatestudies

NEED YOUR REPORTS AND PROJECTS PRINTED ASAP?
We’re your one stop print & design shop!

- print from usb key
- coil bind
- hard cover books
- exam bank
- b&w and colour printing
- fax service

Only at

West of Canada
OPEN Copy & Design Centre

Rm 78, University Community Centre
Inprint@uwo.ca or 519.861.3578
Online: www.usc.uwo.ca/inprint

Interested in learning more about Graduate Studies at Guelph?

Meet with faculty, staff, and students to learn more about Guelph’s graduate programs, research opportunities, admissions process, scholarships and campus.

Saturday, October 23rd 10am-1pm
University Centre at the University of Guelph

Graduate students at Guelph are empowered to think critically, explore new ideas and apply what they have learned to improve life in Canada and around the world.

- Choose from over 90 graduate programs
- Work with faculty who have received over $100 million in external financial support
- Conduct research in world-class facilities
- Live in one of Canada’s best cities (Money Sense Magazine)
- Graduate studies can be fully financed by scholarships, awards and other funding
- Master’s or Doctoral graduates can earn up to 50% more income than graduates with a Bachelor’s degree

www.uoguelph.ca/graduatestudies

Meet with faculty, staff, and students to learn more about Guelph’s graduate programs, research opportunities, admissions process, scholarships and campus.

Saturday, October 23rd 10am-1pm
University Centre at the University of Guelph

Graduate students at Guelph are empowered to think critically, explore new ideas and apply what they have learned to improve life in Canada and around the world.

- Choose from over 90 graduate programs
- Work with faculty who have received over $100 million in external financial support
- Conduct research in world-class facilities
- Live in one of Canada’s best cities (Money Sense Magazine)
- Graduate studies can be fully financed by scholarships, awards and other funding
- Master’s or Doctoral graduates can earn up to 50% more income than graduates with a Bachelor’s degree

www.uoguelph.ca/graduatestudies

Interested in learning more about Graduate Studies at Guelph?

Meet with faculty, staff, and students to learn more about Guelph’s graduate programs, research opportunities, admissions process, scholarships and campus.

Saturday, October 23rd 10am-1pm
University Centre at the University of Guelph

Graduate students at Guelph are empowered to think critically, explore new ideas and apply what they have learned to improve life in Canada and around the world.

- Choose from over 90 graduate programs
- Work with faculty who have received over $100 million in external financial support
- Conduct research in world-class facilities
- Live in one of Canada’s best cities (Money Sense Magazine)
- Graduate studies can be fully financed by scholarships, awards and other funding
- Master’s or Doctoral graduates can earn up to 50% more income than graduates with a Bachelor’s degree

www.uoguelph.ca/graduatestudies

Interested in learning more about Graduate Studies at Guelph?

Meet with faculty, staff, and students to learn more about Guelph’s graduate programs, research opportunities, admissions process, scholarships and campus.

Saturday, October 23rd 10am-1pm
University Centre at the University of Guelph

Graduate students at Guelph are empowered to think critically, explore new ideas and apply what they have learned to improve life in Canada and around the world.

- Choose from over 90 graduate programs
- Work with faculty who have received over $100 million in external financial support
- Conduct research in world-class facilities
- Live in one of Canada’s best cities (Money Sense Magazine)
- Graduate studies can be fully financed by scholarships, awards and other funding
- Master’s or Doctoral graduates can earn up to 50% more income than graduates with a Bachelor’s degree

www.uoguelph.ca/graduatestudies

Interested in learning more about Graduate Studies at Guelph?

Meet with faculty, staff, and students to learn more about Guelph’s graduate programs, research opportunities, admissions process, scholarships and campus.

Saturday, October 23rd 10am-1pm
University Centre at the University of Guelph

Graduate students at Guelph are empowered to think critically, explore new ideas and apply what they have learned to improve life in Canada and around the world.

- Choose from over 90 graduate programs
- Work with faculty who have received over $100 million in external financial support
- Conduct research in world-class facilities
- Live in one of Canada’s best cities (Money Sense Magazine)
- Graduate studies can be fully financed by scholarships, awards and other funding
- Master’s or Doctoral graduates can earn up to 50% more income than graduates with a Bachelor’s degree

www.uoguelph.ca/graduatestudies
Woodholme Park, London’s most sophisticated neighbourhood.

Build your dream home in Woodholme Park.

IDeAL FOR VISITING FACULTY

Two-bedroom fully furnished apartment in ideal setting for visiting faculty: available short- or long-term (weekly, monthly, sabbatical stay). Charmingly furnished in tasteful décor; spacious accommodation lush with details, accessories, and modern amenities. Fully equipped to provide you with all the comforts of home including all linens, bedding, kitchen and bath accessories. Rate includes utilities, telephone, cable and internet, parking, grounds maintenance. Access to on-site laundry. Park-like setting; short drive to Western.

Last day to drop - October 15

October 15, 2010 is the last day to drop a first-term half course or a first-term full course (2010-11 Fall/Winter Term) without academic penalty.

Student Central

For rates and information, contact advertise@uwo.ca.

To advertise, call 519-661-2045 or send email to advertise@uwo.ca. Rates: faculty, staff and students - $20. Beyond 35 words, please add 50 cents per word. Payment must be made in advance. No refunds. Visit Classifieds Online at http://communications.uwo.ca/classifieds_menu/